

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the remaining motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE ON PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 547) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the peace process in Northern Ireland, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 547

Whereas the April 10, 1998, Good Friday Agreement established a framework for the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement stated that it provided "the opportunity for a new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland with a police service capable of attracting and sustaining support from the community as a whole";

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement provided for the establishment of an Independent Commission on Policing to make "recommendations for future policing arrangements in Northern Ireland including means of encouraging widespread community support for these arrangements";

Whereas the Independent Commission on Policing, led by Sir Christopher Patten, concluded its work on September 9, 1999, and proposed 175 recommendations in its final report to ensure a new beginning to policing, consistent with the requirements in the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the Patten report explicitly "warned in the strongest terms against cherry-picking from this report or trying to implement some major elements of it in isolation from others";

Whereas section 405 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (as contained in H.R. 3427, as enacted by section 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106-113, and as contained in appendix G to such Public Law) requires President Clinton to certify, among other things, that the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland are committed to assisting in the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the Patten Commission report issued on September 9, 1999 before the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any other Federal law enforcement agency can provide training for the Royal Ulster Constabulary;

Whereas a May 5, 2000, joint letter by the British Prime Minister and the Irish Prime Minister stated that "legislation to implement the Patten report will, subject to Parliament, be enacted by November 2000";

Whereas on May 16, 2000, the British Government published the proposed Police (Northern Ireland) bill, which purports to implement in law the Patten report;

Whereas many of the signatories to the Good Friday Agreement have stated that the proposed Police (Northern Ireland) bill does not live up to the letter or spirit of the Patten report and dilutes or fails to implement many of the Patten Commission's key recommendations regarding accountability, such as, by limiting the Policing Board and Police Ombudsman's powers of inquiry, by failing to appoint a commissioner to oversee implementation of the Patten Commission's 175 recommendations and instead limiting the commissioner to overseeing those changes in policing which are decided upon by the British Government, and by rejecting the Patten Commission's recommendation that all police officers in Northern Ireland take an oath expressing an explicit commitment to uphold human rights;

Whereas Northern Ireland's main nationalist parties have indicated that they will not participate or encourage participation in the new policing structures unless the Patten report is fully implemented; and

Whereas on June 15, 2000, British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Peter Mandelson said, "I remain absolutely determined to implement the Patten recommendations and to achieve the effective and representative policing service, accepted in every part of Northern Ireland, that his report aimed to secure": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the parties for progress to date in implementing all aspects of the Good Friday Agreement and urges them to move expeditiously to complete the implementation;

(2) believes that the full and speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland holds the promise of ensuring that the police service in Northern Ireland will gain the support of both nationalists and unionists and that "policing structures and arrangements are such that the police service is fair and impartial, free from partisan political control, accountable...to the community it serves, representative of the society that it polices...[and] complies with human rights norms", as mandated by the Good Friday Agreement; and

(3) calls upon the British Government to fully and faithfully implement the recommendations contained in the September 9, 1999, Patten Commission report on policing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PITTS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 547. I joined as an original cosponsor of this bill, along with many on our committee and others from both sides of the aisle familiar with the problems in Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland last spring, the IRA's efforts at putting arms beyond use and having that verified by outside observers demonstrated their good faith. It made it possible for the power-sharing executive to run again and for real, peaceful democratic change.

As part of that arrangement to restore the executive, in May 2000 the British and Irish governments made a firm commitment to the nationalist community to fully implement the Patten Commission policing reforms that form a core portion of the Good Friday Accord for a new beginning in policing.

The British Government and the unionists have, so far, failed to show similar good faith. They firmly need to live up to their agreements in the Good Friday Accord, especially concerning real police reform as envisioned by the Patten Report of September 1999, a report consistent with the terms of the Good Friday Accord.

A 93 percent Protestant police force will not do in a nearly equally divided society. The British Government cannot put aside promised change and the Good Friday Accord for temporary tactical or political gain, for whatever reason. The Irish National Caucus and other Irish American groups here fully support this bill, as well as the SDLP, the largest nationalist Catholic party in the north of Ireland whose leader, John Hume, won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Seamus Mallon, the SDLP's deputy minister in charge of the executive, stated to our committee and said that failure to implement Patten policing proposals will have a damaging effect on the whole psyche of the fledgling political process.

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We do not want this, nor can we afford this. The Washington Post noted in July that the onus remains on the British Government to respond to Catholic objections on its failure to fully implement all of Patten's police reforms, since these reforms were part of the agreement in the Good Friday Accord. To date, regrettably, they have not responded.

At hearings held last week by the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SMITH) of the Helsinki Commission, a Member of the Patten Commission, Dr. Gerald Lynch, the president of the John J. College of Criminal Justice in New York, told us that any significant modification of its recommendations "will deprive the people of Northern Ireland of this long-awaited police service capable of sustaining support from the community as a whole."